

REMEMBERING AND HONORING  
MARY LOTT WALKER

## HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Mary Lott Walker of Blackshear, Georgia who passed away on May 12th at the age of 85.

Mary loved her city of Blackshear, her state of Georgia, and her country the United States of America devotedly.

After graduating from Georgia State College for Women, Mary began her influential career in public education.

Mary was also involved in politics, becoming the first woman in Blackshear to serve as Mayor pro-term. Through her work in Georgian education, politics, and historical preservation, Mary inspired young people to achieve greatness.

Above all, she devoted more than 67 years of membership and leadership to the Blackshear Presbyterian Church.

Mary's profound community impacts will be felt for generations to come.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and all who knew her during this most difficult time.

HONORING GOVERNOR CARLOS  
ROMERO-BARCELÓ

## HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I rise concerning the passing of my long-time friend and a great leader, Carlos Romero-Barceló, former governor of Puerto Rico. Carlos passed away on May 2, 2021 at the age of 88. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, as well as those whose lives he impacted during his tenure.

Carlos Romero-Barceló was a timeless crusader for Puerto Rico. Throughout his life, he led the fight for equal recognition of Puerto Ricans, and I was especially proud to work with him while he served as the Resident Commissioner for the island in Congress.

Carlos lived a life of public service for Puerto Rico. He served as Mayor of San Juan and then as Governor before being elected to be Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico in 1992. He dedicated his life to achieve equal rights for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico. I was truly honored to know him and call him a friend.

I was proud to serve with him on the House Natural Resources Committee. There we worked together advocating for Puerto Rico, and I was proud to support his efforts to achieve equality for the U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rico. His tireless work deepened Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States, and I was proud to stand by him as a leader of the island.

We honor his legacy and mourn his loss alongside his family—his wife Kathleen, and his children Carlos, Andres, Juan Carlos, and Melinda—and our friends, the people of Puerto Rico.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.  
RICHARD BATES

## HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Richard Bates, who passed away outside Washington, D.C., on December 31, 2020. He was a beloved husband, father, and community member.

Mr. Bates was born in Washington, D.C., on September 2, 1950 to Can and Sylvia Bates. In 1978, he married his best friend and the love of his life, Rose Bates. He served as executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee before joining the Walt Disney Company, where he worked for 30 years. He opened Disney's first Washington, D.C., office, and served as the Senior Vice President of Government Relations.

Richard's loved ones, friends, and colleagues remember him for his compassion, sense of humor, and kindness. He was a passionate advocate for the creative industries and was well-respected for his skill and knowledge in his field. In 2018, he was elected to the board of trustees of an advocacy organization fighting for free speech and working in communications policy issues, the Media Institute. Most importantly, he was dedicated to his friends and family, and inspired those around him to do what they love and follow their dreams.

Richard is survived by his wife, Rose; two sons, Ricky (Noelle) and Chris; brother, Robert (Judith); and other relatives. He will also be missed by his canine-granddaughter, Betty.

HONORING IRIS TUN AS IOWAN OF  
THE WEEK

## HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of our community, Iris Tun, by naming her for Iowan of the Week.

Iris is a co-founder and a family advocate at the Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC) of Iowa, which is Iowa's first and only refugee-led service provider that strives to address shared issues and uplift all refugee communities.

Refugees from Burma began arriving in Iowa in 2007 and 2008 as a priority class of refugees, part of the nearly 1.5 million refugees that have fled Burma since the early 1960s. EMBARC was created in 2012 to help these new refugees settle into Iowa. At first, Iris helped the team provide resources and videos translated from English to Burmese and Karen, but their operation has since expanded.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, EMBARC Iowa got to work creating videos and informational resources about the COVID-19 virus and aid that was available in 13 different languages to help those who had lost jobs, facing eviction and struggling with virtual schooling. Over the past year, more than 8,000 refugees and immigrants have re-

ceived support from EMBARC and RISE AmeriCorps members—95 percent of whom were essential workers.

When Iris is not making videos for EMBARC Iowa, she translates voter registration forms at her church for free. In Iowa, it's illegal for the state to translate official government forms, including election forms, which makes it hard for non-fluent English speakers to collect voting information.

As we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it's important to note the difficulties the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities still face here in America. This week, the House passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act to highlight the increased violence Asian American and Pacific Islanders have encountered since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Iris's work is vital to putting an end to these hate crimes because her work as a translator allows folks to communicate and better understand each other. That's why I would like my colleagues to rise with me and recognize this exemplary woman, Iris Tun, as our Iowan of the Week.

## CONGRATULATING MASTER SERGEANT LOUIS C. GRAZIANO ON HIS DECREE AND MEDAL AS A CHEVALIER IN THE 'ORDRE NATIONAL DE LA LÉGIION D'HONNEUR'

## HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Master Sergeant Luciano "Louis" C. Graziano, a resident of the Tenth Congressional District of Georgia and the last known surviving witness to the German surrender of World War II. His story is truly incredible, and his contribution during his tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Europe is worthy of our nation's everlasting gratitude.

On June 6, 1944, D-Day, Louis was aboard a landing craft with his men and landed upon the sands of Omaha Beach in Normandy France. Once beached, Louis drove a truck full of gasoline onto the sand. With no place to go, he abandoned the vehicle and gathered his weapons to get into the fight. He took up a position at the base of a cliff and fired a burst from a flame thrower to take out a German machinegun nest.

But, Madam Speaker, further up the cliff were even more enemy machinegun nests. In quick thinking, Louis took a flare gun and fired a flare into those positions hoping to direct the fire of allied ships cruising just off the beach. The gun crews on the ships responded as hoped, unleashing their fire from larger caliber guns destroying those positions beyond.

Advancing beyond the shores of Normandy, the French city of St. Lo and Reims were soon liberated. It was in Reims that Louis's skill in his craft would come into play and eventually afford him a seat to history itself. Upon establishment of a command post within the heavily mined city, Louis was ordered to install General Eisenhower's phone line. This phone line was vital for the General's real time communication, helping to bring about a timelier allied victory.

As allied forces fought to reclaim the town of Bastogne, the Germans mounted a last-ditch counteroffensive known as the "Battle of the Bulge." In response, all troops were being mustered to come to the rescue of encircled troops near the Belgian town of Bastogne. In a dangerous mission, Louis and his Captain had to search and find the lost armored element. They suffered frostbite, but their effort was successful. After, Louis returned to Reims to recover.

Among the buildings in Reims, there was a "Little Red Schoolhouse" where General Eisenhower had his headquarters. It was there that the unconditional surrender of Germany was signed in the early morning hours of Monday, May 7, 1945. Louis was there, in the room, as General Yodl of the German Army signed the articles of surrender.

Madam Speaker, Louis has served our Nation with integrity, excellence, and courage, and we, as Americans, owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his incredible sacrifices to serve and protect our country at home and abroad. He not only has earned the admiration of his fellow Americans but that of our allies as well. On April 6, 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron approved awarding him the French Legion d'honneur, which is the highest French order of merit that can be bestowed upon an individual. For these reasons, I am honored to represent him in Congress, and it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Master Sergeant Luciano "Louis" C. Graziano.

#### CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF CLAYTON ON THE COMPLETION OF THE CEROW RECREATION PARK ARENA RENOVATION

##### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Town of Clayton on the completion of the Cerow Recreation Park Arena addition and renovation project. Additionally, I rise to recognize Leonard "Obie" O'Brien as the new wing is dedicated in his honor.

The renovation and addition were made possible through funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development program. The Town of Clayton also received grants from Empire State Development and the state Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation through the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. I am grateful that these sources of funding are available to support infrastructure updates and economic development projects in rural areas such as our district. Community gathering spaces are the foundation of our North Country community and foster a sense of neighborly spirit. This renovation will also increase the economic impact made by the park arena, attracting more visitors and events to the space, promising prosperity for the Town. Local businesses truly are the backbone of the North Country and I will continue working in Congress to support them.

The newly named Leonard "Obie" O'Brien wing is aptly dedicated in recognition of the many years of service Obie gave to the Clay-

ton sports community. Obie operated the girls' basketball program for 25 years, Clayton Minor Hockey for 14 years, and the Clayton Youth Commission for 4 years. He founded the local Maverick Ski Club and was selected as Clayton's Citizen of the Year in 2003. Regrettably, Obie passed away in June 2020 after a battle with cancer before the completion of the renovation. With the many years Obie had spent in this complex, I believe he would be honored to be remembered so fondly.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the Town of Clayton on the successful completion of this project. I hope that every person who walks through these doors looks to the example that Obie left and embodies his love for the game and above all his kindness to everyone he encountered.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNG AMERICANS FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT

##### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to re-introduce the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act. Financial literacy is critical to ensuring future financial responsibility. Studies have shown that 88 percent of Americans believe finance education should be taught in schools and 92 percent of K-12 teachers believe that financial education should be taught in school, but only 12 percent of teachers actually teach the subject. Yet, according to a 2020 survey, less than half of States require high school students to take a personal finance course, and less than 17 percent of high school students were required to take a semester-long personal finance course.

I believe that Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to address the pressing needs of individuals faced with the loss of their financial stability and the challenges of economic uncertainty. This should include financial literacy education reform and long-term solutions to prevent future personal financial disasters. Research-based financial literacy education programs are needed to reach individuals at all ages and socioeconomic levels, particularly those facing unique and challenging financial situations, such as high school graduates entering the workforce, soon-to-be and recent college graduates and young families, and to address the unique needs of military personnel and their families. High school and college students who are exposed to cumulative financial education show an increase in financial knowledge, which in turn drives increasingly responsible behavior as they become young adults.

According to the Government Accountability Office, giving Americans the information they need to make effective financial decisions can be key to their well-being and to the country's economic health. The global financial crisis, when many borrowers failed to fully understand the risks associated with certain financial products, and currently, the economic hardships presented by the sudden disruptions caused by the spread of COVID-19, under-

score the need to improve individuals' financial literacy and empower all Americans to make informed financial decisions. This is especially true for young people as they are earning their first paychecks, securing student aid, and establishing their financial independence. Therefore, focusing economic education and financial literacy efforts and best practices for young people between the ages of 8 to 24 is of utmost importance.

I believe America should be leading the world with the best-educated students who will drive our economic innovation and success, so please join me in cosponsoring the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act. This act:

Establishes a grant program in the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to develop and implement financial literacy programs for young people ages 8 to 24,

Incentivizes the development of partnerships between institutions of higher education, local educational agencies, nonprofit organizations, and financial institutions to develop programs aimed at young Americans in different phases of their life;

Ensures the development of evidence-based instructional material that is geared towards targeted groups and addresses unique life situations, including bankruptcy, foreclosure, student loans, credit card misuse; and

Conducts ongoing assessment and accountability of the program over the short- and long-term to ensure that grant money achieves the greatest impact.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act.

#### HONORING DR. DIANE CULPEPPER FOR HER SERVICE TO LAKE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

##### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation that I recognize Dr. Diane Culpepper for her leadership and service as Executive Director of Lake Technical College. After more than a decade of service, Dr. Culpepper will retire from Lake Technical College this August.

Dr. Culpepper earned both her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing and her master's degree in Vocation Administration from the University of Central Florida. She earned her Ph.D. in Workforce Education from the University of South Florida. Dr. Culpepper has taught at all levels of education from elementary to university. Before coming to Lake Technical College, Dr. Culpepper served for twenty-three years in the Career and Technical Education Department for Orange County Schools at both the school and district levels.

In 2010, Dr. Culpepper's passion for education led her to Lake Technical College. Under Dr. Culpepper's leadership, Lake Tech has increased enrollment, fostered new partnerships with business and industry, and enhanced the quality of academic offerings. Most recently, at the direction of Dr. Culpepper, in 2016, Lake Tech entered a partnership with Lake Sumter State College (LSSC) and began offering Practical Nursing, Nursing Assistant,